



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329

(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

July 21, 2010

Ellen DeGeneres  
c/o Harley J. Neuman  
Neuman and Associates, Certified Public Accountants

REDACTED

**Warning Letter Re: FPPC Case No. 10/247, Ellen DeGeneres**

Dear Ms. DeGeneres:

The Fair Political Practices Commission (the "FPPC") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act"),<sup>1</sup> found in Government Code section 81000, et seq. This letter is in response to a complaint filed against you alleging you did not file a major donor report.

The FPPC has completed its investigation of the facts in this case. Specifically, the FPPC found that you did not file the required major donor statement (Form 461) on or by the due date of February 2, 2009.<sup>2</sup>

The Act imposes reporting requirements on major donors, defined as persons that make contributions totaling \$10,000 or more in a calendar year. (G.C. § 82013(c).) Specifically, the Act requires major donor committees to file semi-annual statements for each half of the year in which contributions have been made. (G.C. §§ 84200, 84200.5.) Pertinent to your situation, a major donor that has not contributed \$10,000 until after June 30 will file one statement for that year.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014. All statutory references are to the Government Code, unless otherwise indicated. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. All regulatory references are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise indicated.

<sup>2</sup> Because the January 31, 2009, deadline fell on a Saturday, the due date was adjusted to the next business day.

Your actions violated the Act because you failed to file a major donor report after contributing to the ballot measure committee Equality for All. Because, however, you filed both a hardcopy and an electronic report immediately after our contacting you and because you have no prior history of either contributing or filing campaign reports, we have decided to close this case.


This letter serves as a written warning. The information in this matter will be retained and may be considered should an enforcement action become necessary based on newly discovered information or future conduct. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act in the future will result in monetary penalties of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

A warning letter is an FPPC case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. However, the warning letter resolution does not provide you with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Fair Political Practices Commission. If you wish to avail yourself of these proceedings by requesting that your case proceed with prosecution rather than a warning, please notify us within ten (10) days from the date of this letter. Upon this notification, the FPPC will rescind this warning letter and proceed with administrative prosecution of this case. If we do not receive such notification, this warning letter will be posted on the FPPC's website ten (10) days from the date of this letter.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Adrienne Korchmaros at (916) 322-8241.

Sincerely,

REDACTED 

 Gary S. Winuk, Chief  
Enforcement Division

GSW:AK:ak

✓ cc: David Llewellyn